

For Information Contact Public Affairs WYN HORNBUCKLE Telephone: (602) 514-7625

Cell: (602) 525-2681

FORMER POSTAL EMPLOYEE INDICTED

PHOENIX – A federal grand jury in Phoenix returned a ten count indictment against Jerry E. McDonald, 52, of Tolleson, Ariz. for violations of Delaying or Destruction of Mail by a Postal Employee.

The indictment alleges that on October 16, 2006, McDonald, then a Postal Service employee, deposited 10 pieces of first class mail in a closed trash bag into a garbage dumpster prior to the delivery of the mail to the addressees. McDonald has been summoned to appear for an arraignment on December 27 before United States District Judge David G. Campbell.

Upon a conviction for Delay or Destruction Mail by a Postal Employee, each count carries a maximum penalty of five years imprisonment, a \$250,000.00 fine or both. In the event of a conviction, Judge Campbell will consult the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines, which provide suggested sentencing ranges. The judge, however, is not bound by those guidelines in determining an actual sentence.

An indictment is simply the method by which a person is charged with criminal activity and raises no inference of guilt. An individual is presumed innocent until competent evidence is presented to a jury that establishes guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

The investigation preceding the indictment was conducted by the Special Agents of the United States Postal Service, Office of the Inspector General. The prosecution is being handled by Richard I. Mesh, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Phoenix.

CASE NUMBER: CR-06-1120-PHX-DGC RELEASE NUMBER: 2006-274(McDonald)

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